

Synopsis of Writing Project 2: Research Proposal
Conservation Biology W20(sections 7 and 11) Spring 2007
Dr Reynolds

Purpose of the assignment: *Scholarship with a Civic Mission: Research Service Learning* prepares Duke undergraduates to pursue research projects that serve community needs. This assignment will help you articulate a specific research question that you have identified through your interactions with the Eno River State Park staff. This proposal certainly could be the basis of Stage II research within the Research Service Learning model.

Assignment: Prepare a 3-5 page research proposal that:

- Identifies a research question linked to your service-learning that would be important and useful to your community partner,
- Contains a review of the salient literature published on your topic,
- Names the people and agencies that you would need to work with to pursue this research,
- Identifies the types of data/information (both primary and secondary sources) that you would need to obtain to answer your research question,
- Proposes specific methods by which you could collect your data/information,
- Articulates how the results of your research would benefit our community partner.

Step	Assignment	Due date
Step 1	Introduction to Research Service Learning: Prepare interviews for community partner about specific research needs	Wednesday 1/31/07
Step 2	Email Dr Reynolds any responses you have received from your emails. Follow up with phone calls if you have not heard back.	Wednesday 2/7/07
Step 3	In class → brainstorm ideas generated from interviews (Begin background research on topic of interest after class)	Friday 2/9/07
Step 4	Outline of testable hypothesis and methods due (post it to Blackboards, in the ASSIGNMENTS folder)	Wednesday 2/14/07
Step 5	Solicit feedback on draft from community partner	Wednesday 2/14/07
Step 6	Revision of project outline due – upload to Blackboard (include a note explaining what feedback you received from your community partner)	Wednesday 2/21/07
Step 7	1 st draft due (upload to Blackboard by 9am on March 7 th) – group conferences (bring 4 hard copies of your draft to the conference)	March 7-9, 2007
Step 8	Solicit feedback from peers on 2 nd draft	Friday 3/23/07
Step 9	Solicit feedback from community partners on 3 rd draft	Friday 4/6/07
Step 10	Final draft due. Deliver end product to community partner	Wednesday 4/18/07

** Sample research proposals are posted in Blackboard (in Course Documents).